

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,110,194 to Zurfluh (hereafter “the *Zurfluh* patent”). Claims 2 and 19 are objected to. Claims 3-17 are in condition for allowance. For the following reasons, the rejections of claims 1 and 18 are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 18 are Allowable Over the *Zurfluh* Patent

Claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the *Zurfluh* patent. Claim 1 recites “a second mechanism adapted to selectively and adjustably impart a bend to a first portion of said first optical fiber, such that the light energy may be coupled substantially at the first portion of said first optical fiber.” Claim 18 recites “selectively toggling said first optical fiber between said first predetermined spatial relationship with respect to a second optical fiber and a second predetermined spatial relationship with respect to a second optical fiber, such that the light energy may be coupled substantially at the first portion of said first optical fiber.”

The *Zurfluh* patent discloses an optical fiber coupler in which the light energy may be coupled from one end of the fiber to the other. *See* column 5, lines 12-14; Figs. 7E, 7H, 9-10. The present invention, however, does not couple light energy in the same manner as the *Zurfluh* patent. The *Zurfluh* patent fails to disclose or suggest “a second mechanism adapted to selectively and adjustably impart a bend to a first portion of said first optical fiber, such that the light energy may be coupled substantially at the first portion of said first optical fiber,” as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, the *Zurfluh* patent fails to disclose or suggest “a second mechanism adapted to selectively and adjustably impart a bend to a first portion of said first

optical fiber, such that the light energy may be coupled substantially at the first portion of said first optical fiber,” as recited in independent claim 18.

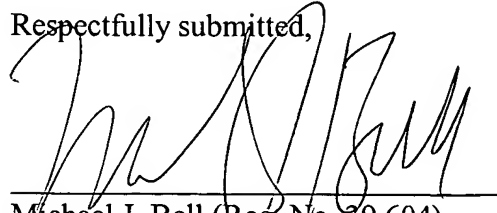
In view of the aforementioned deficiencies of the *Zurfluh* patent, the rejection of claims 1 and 18 is improper and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn. As claims 1 and 18 are in condition for allowance, Applicants believe that the objection to claims 2 and 19 has also been overcome. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection of claims 2 and 19 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael J. Bell", written over a horizontal line.

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